

The Catholic Parishes of Branxton & Singleton are part of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

The Ascension of The Lord - Year B

16 May 2021

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **(R.)**

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Eph 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

**I am with you always,
until the end of the world.**

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mk 16:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

Resurrection for the whole cosmos

Our Risen Lord could have appeared to groups of followers generation after generation until now. But he withdrew his visible bodily presence from us. Why? I think because he needed to wean human beings from our tendency to be self-centred. The Resurrection starts the transformation of the whole of creation, not just us.

Ordinary human beings are the heart and mind and voice of non-angelic creation. We love and understand and speak on its behalf. The transforming effect of Our Lord's glorified humanity is much more profound. Every molecule, every quantum of energy, the past, present and future are all in the process of being changed towards 'the fullness of him who fills the whole creation'.

At every Mass, this divine resurrection power is at work. Elements of the universe, wheat-bread, grapes-wine, become the Real Presence of Our Lord's glorified body. The privilege of a ministerial priest is to be the ritual servant of this divine transformation. Invoking the Holy Spirit and reciting the words of the Last Supper is the priest's role in Our Lord's creative real anticipation of the end of time.

We could take a moment to pray for the grace to let go of our self-centredness, to stop staring into the empty sky as though lamenting Our Lord's absence, and to savour the privilege of receiving his Real Presence in the transformed elements of creation as we and they share in that Holy Communion which is the destiny of the whole cosmos.

Prayer Requests

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Pentecost Sunday, Year B

1st Reading: Acts 2:1-11

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

Gospel: Jn 20:19-23



Sick: Bernadette Coffey, Helen Conlin, Janice Haines, Austin Hoffman, Irene Robinson, Anne Standing, Gloria Trunk, Lorraine Winter, Jane Winsor O'Keefe and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

Anniversaries: Patrick Slattery and Lorraine Edwards. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Baptisms: Albert Leyerer (Branxton) and Harvey Hughes (Singleton). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

Parish Contacts

Parish Priest	Fr Thomas Chirackal	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au
Assistant Priest	Fr Anthony Coloma	Presbytery: 6578 9650	Email: anthony.coloma@mn.catholic.org.au
Parish Secretary	Mrs Erica Janssen	Parish Office: 02 5507 4048 (Tues-Fri, 9am-3pm) Unit 5, 16 Cambridge St, Singleton	Email: singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au Web: www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au
Facebook	Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton		singletonbranxton @parish_sb
		YouTube	
		Twitter	
St Patrick's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
Singleton	<i>St Patrick's Church</i>	Queen Street Singleton 2330	Contact: 02 5507 4048
Broke	<i>Immaculate Conception Catholic Church</i>	Wollombi Street, Broke	Contact: 0407 488 872 or 0458 626 299
Glendon Brook	<i>St. Paul's Catholic Church</i>	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook	Contact: 6577 6168
St Brigid's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
Branxton	<i>St Brigid's Catholic Church</i>	Station St, Branxton 2335	Contact: 0407 381 525
Greta	<i>St Catherine's Catholic Church</i>	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	Contact: 0428 485 025

Schools in our Parishes

St. Catherine's Catholic College	Principal: Mrs Niamh Marzol	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au
Rosary Park Catholic School	Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au
St Nicholas Early Education Singleton	Director: Ms Amy Hunter	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au
St Nicholas Early Education Branxton	Director: Ms Natalie James	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au

Mass Roster Sunday 23 May 2021

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 5pm	Counters
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	J Walker C Crow	P Boyce L Boyce	J Brackenrig	
Commentator		D Clarke	G Cattermole	S Thomas	H Rapp	
Readers	C. Trunk C. Szumilus	M Ingold	E Thompson J Tindale	R James J Bray	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
Prayers		L Gorczyca	J Cox	M Dagg	K Stuart	2 Welcomers are required each week.
Offertory	N Bendeich E Bendeich	P Bridge				
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion						NO Ministers of Communion are required.

Faithful and compassionate God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy; hear the prayers we offer, that in the particular ministry to which you have called us, may we serve you faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 17 May	Tuesday 18 May <i>St John I</i>	Wednesday 19 May	Thursday 20 May <i>St Bernardine of Siena</i>	Friday 21 May <i>St Christopher Magallanes & com.</i>	Saturday 22 May <i>St Rita Of Cascia</i>	Sunday 23 May PENTECOST SUNDAY, YEAR B
8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton	5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton 11.00am Mass Mercy Home	6.45am Novena 7.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton *NOTE CHANGE	7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 5.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	8.50am Rosary 9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta		9.20am Mass St Brigid's Branxton		5.30pm Reconciliation 6.00pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton	7.35am Rosary 8.00am Mass St Catherine's Greta

St Brigid, St Catherine, St Patrick, and St Paul – pray for us

Weekly Notices

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

We welcome visitors from all faith communities to our Parish Mass. If you are new members of our Parish we ask that you take a Welcome Pack from the back of the church, complete and return the Member forms and one of our welcoming team will contact you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Wonnarua people, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

We acknowledge the lifelong trauma of abuse victims, survivors and their families, the failures of the Catholic Church to protect, believe and respond justly to children and vulnerable adults, and the consequent breach of trust.

Our Churches Are COVID Safe

Our churches are registered COVID Safe businesses with NSW Health. A copy of the COVID-19 Safety Plan is on the noticeboard for you to read with our conditions of entry. We thank you for your assistance in complying with these conditions and in turn keeping our community safe and free from the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In accordance with the Public Health Order, public Mass, baptisms, funerals and weddings can be celebrated with a maximum of 160 people in St Patrick's Church, Singleton, 150 people in St Brigid's Church, Branxton and 90 people in St Catherine's Church, Greta.

Please stay home and get tested if you are experiencing any of the following symptoms (even if they are mild):

- Fever (37.5° or higher)
- cough
- sore/scratchy throat
- shortness of breath
- loss of smell
- or loss of taste



HAVE YOU CHECKED IN? Please ensure you have your name on the registration list or used the QR code to check-in today!

Changes to Mass Time – Saturday 22 May

Mass at St Patrick's Singleton on Saturday 22 May will be said at **7am** with Novena at 6.45am due to our priests attending the Diocesan Synod that day.

Changes to Glendonbrook Mass Time

Mass at Glendonbrook on Saturday 29 May at 5pm due to our priests attending the Diocesan Synod on 22 May.

2021 National Count of Attendance

From this weekend and for the month of May, Parishes will be recording the attendance numbers at Mass. This year the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has asked for some extra information, including sex and age bracket of attendees. We would appreciate your help in providing this information. Welcomers are asked to count all those in attendance at Mass (this may not be the number on the registration sheets if people have checked in with the QR code).

St Patrick's Parish Raffle

The Raffle run by St Patrick's Parish Singleton was drawn at 5pm Mass last weekend 9 May 2021. The winner of 1st prize of a \$150 fuel voucher was K Dries and winner of the 2nd prize of a \$75 fuel voucher was Frieda King. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets. The money has been used to purchase a catcher for the ride-on mower and a new vacuum cleaner for the church.

St Brigid's Caritas Group Lunch

St. Brigid's Caritas group will meet for lunch on Friday 21 May at 12.00pm in the Royal Federal Hotel, Branxton. We extend an invitation for fellow parishioners to join us on this day. With the threat of COVID-19 we have so few opportunities to meet socially, and it is important that we pray and stay together. Please phone Helen Ralston on 4938 1467 by Friday 14 May if you wish to join us.

We have so much to be thankful for
Mary MacKillop 1842-1909

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea - Greta

The Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea will be held in the Parish Room at St. Catherine's, Greta on Sunday 30 May 2021 commencing at 9.00am (after 8.00am Mass).

This is a fundraiser for Cancer Council's vital research, prevention and support service programs. Entry is via a donation at the door. Everyone is asked to bring a plate to share for morning tea. To be COVID Safe you will need to check in using the QR Code. For more information, please contact Joy Clarke on 0439381372.

National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteers. From Monday 17 to Sunday 23 May 2021, Australia will celebrate the significant contribution of almost six million volunteers across our nation. This year's National Volunteer Week theme is 'Recognise, Reconnect and Reimagine'. The Diocese and its agencies have more than 6000 volunteers that do amazing work and make a significant contribution every day.

This year the Diocese will host a Volunteer Week Movie Night on Thursday 20 May at 5.30pm in Event Cinemas Kotara to celebrate volunteers and the work they do which ALL volunteers from the Parishes are invited to attend.

The movie "June Again" will be screen and catering will be provided. Please RSVP by Friday 14 May by emailing volunteers@mn.catholic.org.au or calling 02 4979 1384.

Australian Catholic Men's Gathering

The National Catholic Men's Gathering for 2021 will be launched online on Saturday 31st July. Join a diocesan group with your Bishop, or with your Men's Ministry/Parish group or individually. Three sessions will be provided online, along with reflection questions for group discussion or individual reflection. The Aim is to inspire and encourage all Catholic men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish/diocese and the world. The cost is FREE. Please register at www.catholicmensgathering.com.au and the program will be available from Saturday 31st July 2021.

Offertory Collections at Mass

You may have noticed new signs on our offertory baskets at the back of the church. These signs explain what the money from each collection is used for.

The SECOND COLLECTION is used here in our Parish to pay for things like electricity, rates, insurance, wages, stationery, wine, hosts, candles, copyright licensing, repairs and maintenance, vehicle costs and many other things to keep our Parishes running.

The FIRST COLLECTION is used to sustain the Priests of our Diocese by paying their wages. This money is distributed by the Maitland Central Clergy Fund. This year they have a shortfall of \$10,000 to pay the priests. They had been able to cover this with JobKeeper but now that is finished, they need to find funds to pay our priests.

No one likes to ask for money but with the First collections being the major source of income for the Clergy Fund they are asking if we can all put a little bit extra in the basket each week.



WHY DO WE CELEBRATE THE ASCENSION?

On **Ascension Sunday** we celebrate Christ's final appearance after the resurrection whereby he was taken up into heaven. To some ears this might sound like celestial theatrics! As Christians, we understand it as a profound affirmation of the fact that Jesus is indeed the Son of God who lives on forever beyond the material confines of this world. We are led to reflect upon our own humanity from the perspective of the eternal life that is promised us. Christ has shown us God's love, and God's love is forever – unlimited even by death. As Christians, our belief in this '*tomorrow*' allows us to live '*today*' with **hope and courage**.



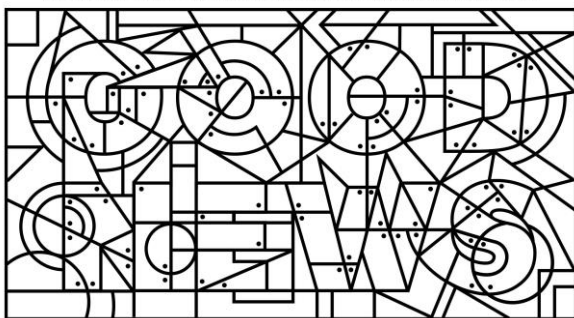
Sacramental Program



Welcome to the children and their families who have joined our Parish Sacramental Programs in 2021 to work towards receiving the *Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion* this year. Children in the Branxton Parish received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time during a liturgy on Friday 14 May at 5.30pm in St Brigid's Church, Branxton. Children in Singleton Parish will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time at their liturgy on Friday 21 May at 5.30pm or 7.00pm in St Patrick's Church, Singleton. *Due to the limits on numbers allowed in our churches, these celebrations are limited to the children and a few loved ones and not open to Parishioners to attend.*

Please keep the children in your prayers as they continue this important part of their faith journey. The children will be placing *Pray for Me* cards on the noticeboards, so you may like to choose a particular name/s to pray for each week.

Colour in all the shapes that contain dots to reveal what Jesus wants everyone to know.



Draw Jesus saying goodbye to his friends and promising to be with them always.



Let's Stay COVID Safe

1. Check in using the Service NSW **QR CODE** or Registration sheet.
2. Show the Welcomer the **GREEN** tick screen.
3. **SANITISE** your hands. **WAVE** instead of shaking hands.
4. Collect a bulletin and **TAKE IT** with you.
5. Maintain **1.5M** physical distancing from those not in your household.
6. During the Communion Procession, please form **ONE** line, with those on the left side of the celebrant to process **FIRST**.

